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01922. Di Simone, Giorgio. In memory of Jacopo Comin. *Luce e Ombra*, 1984 (Jul/Sep), 84(3), 231-232.

Giorgio di Simone, who was a very good friend of Jacopo Comin, recalls in this short but touching note the death of Comin, his interest in parapsychology, and his deep conviction of the reality of survival. - DA

01923. Ravaldini, Silvio. Jacopo Comin, a champion of the spirit. *Luce e Ombra*, 1984 (Jul/Sep), 84(3), 233-257. 75 refs

This article is dedicated to the memory of Jacopo Comin, the Italian scholar who died in 1973. He was a great and enthusiastic supporter of the spiritistic hypothesis and of the reality of survival. His work, consisting of articles, book reviews, and lectures, have been many: the author cites the writings about direct voice, the history of parapsychology, and the important review of the book of Susy Smith, *The Enigma of Out-of-Body Travel*. Comin was a very good propagator of a difficult subject and did not like the description of phenomena by means of numbers and statistics. He considered facts as occasions to practice speculative thought, with prudence and objectivity, without easy enthusiasms, and always looking for truth. The article ends with the description of a seance held by the Centro Italiano di Parapsicologia di Naples. A bibliography of Comin's work is appended. - DA

01924. Sbaccchi, Vincenzo di. An analysis of Ciccone's work, "De Divinatione," in the light of current psychological research. *Luce e Ombra*, 1984 (Jul/Sep), 84(3), 258-264. 12 refs

The author analyzes the work, *De Divinatione*, by M.T. Ciccone, which shows the method used by the Roman orator in misvaluation of divination, and emphasizes his critical ability to judge mysterious events. Some of these are reported in the article and evaluated according to the methods of modern psychical research. - DA/R.A.W.

01925. Garzia, Pierangelo. Servadio in his 80th year. *Luce e Ombra*, 1984 (Jul/Sep), 84(3), 265-267.

On August 14th Emilio Servadio became 80 years old. He was born in Genova, but he went to Rome, where he still lives, in 1946. From 1938 to 1945 he lived in India, where he worked as a psychoanalyst. His interest in the problem of human personality, from the psychological and parapsychological points of view, was very precocious. When he was 13 years old, he read *The Great Initiated* (1899) by Edward Schure, which impressed him very much. Referring to psi phenomena, Schure says in the introduction of his book: "Modern science has made very little steps in this field." For the young Servadio, this was an exalting challenge, and still today he is working on it. - DA

### METAPSICHICA RIVISTA ITALIANA DI PARAPSIKOLOGIA

01926. Mengoli, Ettore, Occhipinti, Luigi, and Inardi, Massimo. Considerations concerning the 25th anniversary of A.I.S.M. *Metapsichica Rivista Italiana di Parapsicologia*, 1970 (Jul/Dec), 25(3/4), 97-103, 111.

The President observes that Prof. W.H.C. Tenhaeff has accepted the honorary presidency of A.I.S.M. (Associazione Italiana Scientifica di Metapsichica), whose foreign connections are increasing. Some research is programmed for 1971. Mr. Occhipinti cites names and events. The President of the sister association, Centro Studi Parapsicologici di Bologna, has sent cordial greetings. - DA

01927. Nestler, V. In memory of Mrs. E.J. Garrett. *Metapsichica Rivista Italiana di Parapsicologia*, 1970 (Jul/Dec), 25(3/4), 104-111. 1 illus; 15 refs

The author illustrates three aspects of the late Mrs. Garrett: the medium, the researcher, and the founder of the Parapsychology Foundation, and underlines her ample contribution to the development of psi studies everywhere. - DA

01928. Di Simone, Giorgio. Sitting with Gustavo Adolfo Rol. *Metapsichica Rivista Italiana di Parapsicologia*, 1970 (Jul/Dec), 25(3/4), 112-118. 43 refs

The author draws some conclusions based on a single sitting with Rol: (1) The axis of the phenomena is identified as a force similar to that of one of those discarnate intelligences who take part in spiritualism; (2) an ideal harmonic structure has been achieved by Rol through years of trials and experiments. - DA

01929. Comin, Jacopo. Notes about reports and debate on G.A. Rol. *Metapsichica Rivista Italiana di Parapsicologia*, 1970 (Jul/Dec), 25(3/4), 119-122, 118.

The author declares that he considers mediumship as a charisma that compares well with divine grace. In his opinion this state has been fully reached in Rol's personality, especially when he performs experiments of high importance by rearranging decks of cards. - DA

01930. Assennato, Pericle. Physiology and parapsychological phenomena. *Metapsichica Rivista Italiana di Parapsicologia*, 1970 (Jul/Dec), 25(3/4), 123-125.

The author, after noting that the difference between parapsychological phenomena and normal phenomena is only a question of quantity, observes that present knowledge of human physiology is not yet in a position to give sufficient explanations of paranormal phenomena, but only more or less plausible hypotheses. Only by remarkable progress in physiology and neurophysiology can these fields make an important contribution to the study of the parapsychological phenomena. - DA

01931. Riccardi, Nicola. Mediumistic movement of tents. *Metapsichica Rivista Italiana di Parapsicologia*, 1970 (Jul/Dec), 25(3/4), 126-134. 6 refs

The author hypothesizes that in her dissociated state of trance Eusapia Palladino could make her unconscious mind produce, among other deeds, strong movements of tents. The medium's intentions and desires penetrated her mind with extraordinary strength, creating many impersonal entities molded in her own unconscious substance. Invisible, they executed the motions of the tents. - DA/R.A.W.

01932. Kuchynka, Karel. Yugoslav clairvoyant Mrs. C. Dolezal. *Metapsichica Rivista Italiana di Parapsicologia*, 1970 (Jul/Dec), 25(3/4), 135-142.

The author presents many extracts from the diary of a nonprofessional psychic, Mrs. C. Dolezal, for the years 1932 to 1937. There are accounts of spontaneous visions in the waking state, precognitive visions in the dreaming state, induced visions, telepathy, PK, and hauntings. - DA

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where a materialized entity writes or talks in a language perfectly unknown to the medium holding the séance. To underline this peculiar event, the author presents some documented examples. The article starts with the phenomenology of Laura Edmonds obtained during her séances in New York. She was able to talk fluently in languages she absolutely did not know, so that the researchers considered the possibility of an outside possession. We read about Major Tudor Pole who was able to talk and understand Persian, a language absolutely unknown to him. The article describes Thérèse Neumann who, during her mystic raptures, used to talk in Aramaic, perfectly recognized as the real Christ language by the scholars who had the possibility to assist her. "Nephentes" materialized herself during the séances held by E. D'Esperance. She was able to write a message in the memo book of a researcher assisting in the séance. In the end of the article we read of an ancient poem corrected for a better comprehension by the "Confucius" entity. This request came from Doctor Whyment during a sitting with the medium Valantine. The author ends the article by saying that during his life he had the opportunity to attend many xenoglossy manifestations where many languages and dialects were spoken. He is sure that such languages were unknown to present people, and for this reason he is perfectly sure of the autonomy of the entities. - DA

03049. Ravaldini, Silvio. In memory of Gastone De Boni. *Luce e Ombra*, 1987 (Jul/Sep), 87(3), 205-208.

On the 23rd of September 1986 Gastone De Boni left us, having finished his human experience. Only after having put in order all the material he left us will we fully understand the importance of his wide knowledge. De Boni's aim was knowledge of the psyche--that defined by Myers as "the subliminal self" and evidenced in his book, *Human Personality and Its Survival of Bodily Death*. We must not forget that Myers was considered a teacher by De Boni. In fact, he wrote: "In this psychic microcosm we only can catch a glimpse of the power and shining of psychic macrocosm." As a follower of Jung's thought, he rationally examined the possibilities of the psyche under its different appearances, and he once said: "Our position makes us fight in favor of an idea, which, even if it grows and finishes under the control of pure thought, must and will have an important place in human life." - DA

03050. Giovetti, Paola. Near-death experiences in other cultures. *Luce e Ombra*, 1987 (Jul/Sep), 87(3), 209-213.

Dr. Giorgio Fonzo is a medical doctor who for many years worked for the World Health Organization, being constantly in touch with Moslem people. On several occasions he had the opportunity to deal with persons who were near death and to listen to their impressions. They reported experiences that were very similar to the ones reported by so many people of different religions, which have been collected all over the world in recent years. Dr. Fonzo's patients reported out-of-body experiences and "tunnel experiences," visions of beautiful places and of a marvelous light, encounters with dead friends or relatives, etc. Those who are familiar with the specialized literature will recognize in Dr. Fonzo's material some transcultural elements of great interest. - R.A.W.

03051. Iannuzzo, Giovanni. Studies of the history of parapsychology in Italy from 1982 to 1986: A report and a critical revision. *Luce e Ombra*, 1987 (Jul/Sep), 87(3), 214-225. 46 refs; 1 table

After a detailed review of the most important Italian

parapsychology journals in order to better analyze the way scientific research has been carried on from 1982-1987, the author thinks more scholars are interested in pursuing studies in this field. His research examines the quantitative data at our disposal that specifies which research areas are the most studied, and he suggests a way to improve such researches qualitatively. - DA

03052. Ravaldini, Silvio. Daniel Dunglas Home. *Luce e Ombra*, 1987 (Jul/Sep), 87(3), 226-244. 54 refs

It is not easy to discuss all the different phenomena Daniel D. Home produced during his life, especially the physical ones. Therefore the author has put in evidence only three of them: the telekinetic phenomena produced on an accordion, those concerning levitations, and the fire-immunity ones. The accordion was playing while the medium was holding it on the side with no keys, but it was playing as well as when anybody was touching it. This peculiar phenomenon was fully described by trustworthy people. In addition, a journalist for the *Times* was not able to find any trick. Home's ability to hold burning coals in his hands was confirmed by scholars such as Sir William Crookes and Charles Richet. The author describes Home's levitations in more detail, especially the one at Ashley House where Home went out one window and came back in another. In considering every side of the problem, the author thinks these phenomena actually took place. He proposes that the phenomena Home produced are still happening nowadays, for example, those produced by Roberto Setti, the Florence medium. - DA/R.A.W.

03053. Heim, Albert. Death from falls. (Trans. by Paola Giovetti.) *Luce e Ombra*, 1987 (Jul/Sep), 87(3), 245-252.

This article was written in 1892 by the Swiss geologist, Dr. Albert Heim, and published in the *Bulletin* of the Swiss Alpine Club. The author describes his personal experiences and those of several persons who nearly died because of mountain falls. Their sensations and visions were wonderful: They felt no fear, no pain. Sensations of peace, well-being, and beautiful visions were common. This is very similar to modern near-death experiences, and in this sense Dr. Heim's analysis is really a pioneer one and worthy of note. - DT/R.A.W.

03054. Giroladini, William. Parapsychology and research. *Luce e Ombra*, 1987 (Jul/Sep), 87(3), 253-259. 7 refs

The author critically debates the proposal many researchers have advanced to reevaluate the study of spontaneous ESP-PK phenomena. Many believe that spontaneous phenomena are more repeatable and of a "superior quality" than the results obtained in the laboratory using the traditional experimental criteria derived from the normal sciences. Giroladini thinks that all the existing studies of spontaneous cases overlook the problem of chance coincidence. Because of this, it is not possible to know if the collected events are mainly "true" or "spurious." Therefore, the study of spontaneous events runs the risk of being worthless because of this underlying ambiguity. The author proposes that the study of spontaneous events must be made following a method which makes it possible to evaluate the probability of chance coincidences. The phenomena that seem most suitable could be hallucinations in connection with the death of a relative. If this proposal is accepted by scholars, then it would be possible to increase our knowledge of paranormal phenomena by concentrating the study on the less polluted phenomena instead of the spurious ones. - DA/R.A.W.

*chologie und Grenzgebiete der Psychologie*, 1972, 14(4), 244-251. 33 refs

In a survey of the literature concerning parapsychic phenomena and drugs, the author concludes that obviously only the use of so-called hallucinogens (such as LSD, mescaline, psilocybin, and, with reservations, hashish and marijuana) is associated with parapsychic abilities, whereas the use of opiates (such as opium, heroin, and morphine) does not seem to touch this field. It is hypothesized that because of the different pharmacopsychological functioning of hallucinogens, intoxication by these substances might be rather suitable for stimulating the aggressive and instinctive parts of man. They seem to be a characteristic feature of psi abilities also. Opiates, on the other hand, do not seem to affect this sphere because these substances are mainly narcotizing. The effects of cocaine, amphetamines, tranquilizers, and soporifics cannot be judged on the basis of the surveyed literature. It is shown that the possible relevance of drug use to parapsychology is completely ignored by most textbooks dealing with drugs, the authors of which are mainly medical men, psychiatrists, or pharmacologists. — G.H.

**01396. Schmidbauer, Wolfgang. On the psychology of the oracle.** *Zeitschrift für Parapsychologie und Grenzgebiete der Psychologie*, 1972, 14(4), 222-234. [Originally published in *Psychologische Rundschau*, 1970, 21, 88-98.] 30 refs

The author describes various practices of oracles with reference to ethnographic reports and attempts to sketch a model that optimally includes psychological aspects in these reports. The function of trance within the oracle and its sociopsychological moorings (shamans) are pointed out. An analysis of oracular practices with principles derived from projective tests shows certain structural similarities with the situation in which a person seeking advice finds himself. — DA/R.A.W.

## ITALIAN LANGUAGE

LUCE E OMBRA

(Editor: Paola Giovetti)

**01397. Di Simone, Giorgio. The "Entita A." case.** *Luce e Ombra*, 1985 (Jan/Mar), 85(1), 22-29. 8 refs

After a long preamble mostly dedicated to the historical and technical aspects of the seances of "Mister X" (a trance medium whose name he is not allowed to mention), the author underlines the great importance of the revolutionary contents of these seances, which took place in Naples more than 30 years ago (about 1950-1980). These contents are extremely logical, rational, and coherent, and the author collected them in several books, first of all *Rapporto dalla dimensione X*, (Roma 1973/84). The author mentions also the experiments he organized (1971 and 1974) in order to check the independence of the supposed communicating "entity" (Entita A) from the medium (comparative analysis of the voices with the "voice-print" method and an EEG of the medium, awake and during his speaking-trance). — DA

**01398. Iannuzzo, Giovanni. Parapsychology and anthropology: A note.** *Luce e Ombra*, 1985 (Jan/Mar), 85(1), 30-34. 18 refs

The author analyses the connections between parapsychology and anthropology, and asserts that these connections should be of different kinds: accounts of psi phenomena should be evaluated according to both parapsychological and anthropological patterns, and accounts of psi phenomena also should be evaluated only from the parapsychological point of view (a "parapsycographical" pattern). Experimental methods, utilized in some field researches, are considered insufficient. The author suggests a new methodological approach in which "paranormality" is considered a cross-cultural event. According to this model, it seems to be necessary, in psychical research, to utilize the methods and conceptual patterns of the "human" sciences. — DA

**01399. Ravaladini, Silvio. A pioneer of psychical research: Alexandre N. Aksakof.** *Luce e Ombra*, 1985 (Jan/Mar) 85(1), 43-54. 8 refs

The author describes the life and work of one of the pioneers of psychical research, Alexandre Aksakof. His activities were directed at establishing the reality of paranormal phenomena. His early work was published in Germany, due to the censorship exerted in Russia by religious and lay authorities. Aksakof was an alert experimenter and had the occasion to be present in the seances of two great mediums: D.D. Home and Florence Cook. In the year 1874, Aksakof founded in Germany the journal *Psychische Studien*, which later had a great importance for both theoretical study and for practical experimentation. Later he published (1890) his important book, *Animism and Spiritism*, which can be considered a positive answer to the book, *Spiritism*, of E. von Hartmann, which practically denied the physical phenomena. Aksakof devoted nearly all his life to promulgating spiritualistic ideals in a world where materialism was dominant, and left an important legacy, both as man and as researcher. — DA/R.A.W.

**01400. Giovetti, Paola. The possession case of Siano (Catanzaro).** *Luce e Ombra*, 1985 (Jan/Mar), 85(1), 55-59. 1 ref.

The author interviewed Dr. Pericle Assennato, a retired magistrate who long ago (1936) was present when an exceptional case of possession took place in a little village of South Italy, Siano near Catanzaro. Three years earlier the dead body of a young man, Giuseppe Verardi of Catanzaro, had been found under a bridge. The investigation concluded that it was suicide. Three years later, Maria Talarico, 17, a young girl of Siano, passed over the bridge and had a sudden and strange metamorphosis that lasted 36 hours: Her voice changed and became that of a man, she insisted that she was Giuseppe Verardi and acted as if she were. She did not recognize her parents, but she did recognize the mother of Giuseppe and revealed that Giuseppe did not commit suicide but was killed. She mentioned the names of the killers, as well. The population of the whole village assisted in uncovering the facts. After 36 hours Maria went under the bridge, took the position the dead body of Giuseppe had had, and "awakened" without remembering anything. After that, a new investigation concluded for a case of murder. Dr. Assennato gives his interpretation of this interesting case. — DA

## METAPSICHICA RIVISTA ITALIANA DI PARAPSIKOLOGIA

**01401. Crosa, G. Report of the First International Congress on Parapsychology of the Italian-Swiss Center for Advanced Studies.** *Metapsichica Rivista Italiana di Parapsicologia*, 1969 (Jul Dec), 24(3/4), 109-116.

Thanks to the hospitality of the Italian-Swiss Center for Advanced Studies (Campione d'Italia), the First International Congress on Parapsychology of Campione d'Italia was held on March 29, 1969. The general topic was Mysterious Psychic Phenomena. Introductory speeches were made by Mr. F. De Baggis, Mayor of the host town; Dr. Naegeli-Osjord, President of the Schweizer Parapsychologische Gesellschaft; and Mr. E. Mengoli, President of the Associazione Italiana Scientifica di Metapsichica. In this report we have the main features of the papers presented by four M.D.s and psychiatrists (Crosa, Granone, Naegeli-Osjord, Cassoli) and the theologian Resch are summarized. During the evening session some slides about hypnosis (with commentary by Granone) and one about Ted Serios were projected, followed by a discussion masterly directed by Prof. Beonio Brocchieri. In addition to the previously mentioned speakers, presentations were made by two medical doctors, Inardi and Buscaino; a newspaperman, Altavilla; and a theologian, Pisoni, who cleverly aroused the participation of the public. The *Proceedings* have been published by Silva of Rome. — DT/R.A.W.